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### MR. ERK REPLIES

An anonymous coward having written to the Free Press that Mr. J. F. Tennant was the real author of the letter signed by Mr. Ludwig Erk, the latter replies as follows. His letter appeared in the Free Press of Nov. 1.

To the Editor of the Free Press.

Sir,—In your issue of Oct. 27 appeared a letter signed "Gretna Grit." It seems to have escaped the censor of the Free Press; for it is one of their rules that letters containing personalities or attacks on private character will not be published. Yet the whole gist of the one in question was confined to personalities. It is only to refute the disreputable falsehoods stated by the malice of the authors (?) of the Gretna Grit" letter that I plead for a space in your columns. This is the only excuse I have for paying any attention whatever to such an anonymous correspondent.

The object of my first letter was attained. The facts contained in that have not been denied. My name and address were plainly stated. My home surroundings are congenial and of no concern, except to the envious. If it is of public interest I may say that my teaching certificate (not permit) was received before the Roblin government existed. I am lost for a reason why they should be held responsible for it unless it is the anxiety betrayed, under cover of a little political capital, to rope in the fair name of another and give vent to their animosity in an endeavor to injure his personal standing with the provincial government.

I am not the "catspaw" of any individual or clique, and stand alone responsible for any opinions expressed either in public or private. The principles on which I conduct myself, I trust, are staunch. Moreover, they were formed long before I became a citizen of my adopted country, and, I believe, under good tutelage.

In giving expression to my opinions I study to give no unnecessary offence, but there are always to be found some ready to "bark and bite, for it is their nature to." They may yet learn to act the part of a man, and sign their own name.

LUDWIG ERK.

Gretna, Oct. 30.

### ST. MARY'S LADIES AID

On Friday last the St. Mary's Ladies Aid Society of Winnipeg had their annual tea in the Presbytery, to which all the women of the congregation (particularly strangers) had been extended an invitation the previous Sunday by the genial Pastor of St. Mary's.

Mrs. Cass, the President, assisted by Mesdames Cauchon and Weiss, received the guests in the parlor, whence they passed to the dining room, where the pretty tea table, decorated with lovely chrysanthemums, was presided over by Mrs. Bawlf and Mrs. Guilmette.

This annual tea has been inaugurated by the Ladies Aid, for the purpose of welcoming strangers to the parish, and enabling them to become acquainted with the older members of the congregation; it was noticed with much regret that so small a number of strangers were present. A few of those

noticed were Mesdames Bawlf, Bourgoin, Cass, the Misses Cass, Mesdames Cauchon, Cummings, Carey, McCormack, Carroll, Chevrier, Dubuc, A. J. H. Dubuc, Deegan, Driscoll, J. Egan, Gautier, Guilmette, Mrs. & Miss Healy, Landers, Miss Landers, Mesdames MacDonnell, McGrath, Oldershaw, Tilt, Turner, the Misses Turner, Myers, Jobin, Marrin, and others. Next Friday the Society will meet for the election of officers.

### THE MONK IN THE SHOW WINDOW.

By Gerald Farrell, in Donahoe's for November.

It is time to call a halt, to impress on Catholics the efficacy of protest when business interests can be influenced. The dealer who exploits the jolly, bottle-draining monk will withdraw him from the show window if Catholic patrons object to his presence, the restaurant keeper will consent to replace him on the walls with something less offensive to Catholics, and the tobacconist will devise another receptacle for the fragrant weed. We are all too tolerant of public insult, of gross misrepresentation, but pride if not piety should incite us to abolish the caricature of the monk. His work has kept learning alive, has discovered and colonized, and Christian Art has depicted him as became his achievements for God and humanity. Why not make children familiar with the inspiring pictures of these holy men whom artists loved to paint because of the imprint of divinity set upon their countenances? Murillo's St. Anthony with the Holy Child appeals irresistibly to all children, and yet his life-story is too little known: the portrait of Fra Angelico is a noble conception of a monk, so instinct is it with spirituality, and there are many, very many uplifting pictures to tell of monks and monasteries, and of legends connected with them.

With such pictures to inform and elevate public taste there is no excuse for tolerating the presence of the jolly monk. The cocoanuts carved to look like a chimpanzee and labelled "Dooley" "Hinnessy," "Casey" etc., were bad enough, but faith is more than race, and the banishment of the bibulous monk is an issue in which all Catholics should join.

The professor had been summoned as an expert witness in a case involving the ownership of a tract of coal land.

"I will ask you, professor," said the attorney for the prosecution, "if the geological formation of this land corresponds with the published data pertaining thereto?"

"It does, sir," he answered.

"You have thoroughly read up the geology of the tract in question?"

"I have not."

"You have not?"

"No, sir."

"I ask the jury to notice that the witness flatly contradicts himself. Now, sir, if you haven't read up the geology involved in this case, why do you pretend to know anything about it?"

"Because, sir," said the professor, "in studying geological formations it is my invariable custom to read down."

"Silence in the court room!" thundered the judge.

### Regina Notes.

The entertainment given by Prof. Buell, under auspices of St. Mary's Altar Society, was a decided success. Madame Forget, with guests from Government House, attended. This is only one of the many gracious acts of the thoughtful mistress of Government House for which the Altar Society are indeed grateful. Miss Leubach sang "Bonnie Doon" very sweetly, while pictures of Scotland were being shown. Mr. Fuller of the Barracks sang "Holy City" in excellent style, while views of Rome and the Holy Land passed in front of the audience. And Mr. Lyons sang "Killarney" during the time views of Ireland were shown. Mr. Lyons was in excellent voice. As soon as it was known that Mr. Lyons was to sing tickets were at a premium. Mr. Lyons has a well trained, soul-stirring voice and his solos, when given in St. Mary's church, are most highly appreciated. To possess such a singer is certainly an acquisition to St. Mary's congregation. The Altar Society are very thankful to him for services rendered.

The views shown were very good indeed. Those of scenes from the rebellion of '85 were especially appreciated. Views of cities, villages, etc., from ocean to ocean were shown—even the Fish flakes, away down in Cape Breton. Some of the "Blue Noses" almost thought they smelt the cod fish again—not your correspondent.

The weather is very cold, but bright and clear. Threshing is still going on in the surrounding country.

GENA MACFARLANE.

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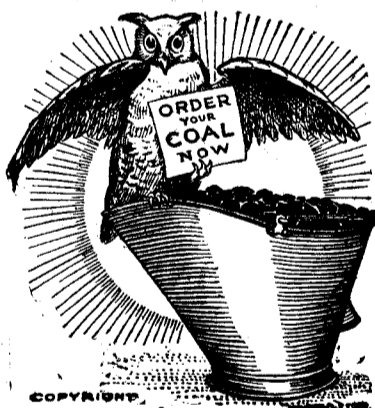
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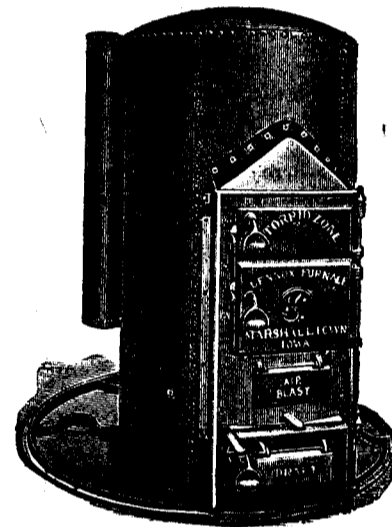
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